

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 20-21, and 23-36 were pending. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-17, 21, and 23-34 were rejected. Claims 35-36 were allowed. Claims 6, 10, 18, and 20 had allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended the rejected claims to put them in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 8, and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 6, 10, and 18, respectively, and should now be allowable. Claims 6, 10, and 18 are cancelled.

Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11-16, and 20 being dependent upon independent claims 1, 8, and 17 should be allowable for at the reasons their independent claim is allowable.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the feature of means for connecting a first region in the first plurality to a second region in the second plurality via a driver circuit and should now be allowable.

Claim 23 has been amended to include the feature of a plurality of signal lines connecting via a plurality of drivers not part of an I/O block, and should now be allowable.

Claims 24-28 being dependent upon claim 23 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 23 is allowable.

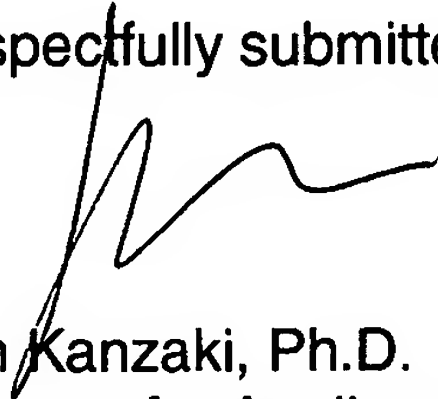
Claim 29 has been amended to include the feature of a signal line connecting the first interconnect line to the second interconnect line via a driver and should now be allowable.

Claims 30-34 being dependent upon claim 29 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 29 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims, and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by an examiner's amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 879-6149.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 23, 2006.

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